



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Office of the
Administrator

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20250

January 4, 2016

Dear Stakeholders:

Today, I am announcing a new acting Deputy Administrator for our Animal Care (AC) program – Bernadette Juarez. As acting AC Deputy, Bernadette will lead the program's many employees in protecting and ensuring the welfare of millions of animals nationwide that are covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA). She will also oversee the collaborative work done at AC's Center for Animal Welfare, building critical partnerships domestically and internationally, while seeking to improve regulatory practices and develop training and educational resources.

Bernadette is replacing Dr. Chester Gipson, who retired on Jan 1, after more than 13 years as AC's Deputy Administrator.

Prior to this position, Bernadette served with APHIS' Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES), first as Deputy Director for 4.5 years and then as Director for 2.5 years. As Director, Bernadette was responsible for leading investigations of alleged AWA and HPA violations, as well as all other APHIS-administered statutes and regulations, and pursuing enforcement actions where warranted. She also transformed the unit's ability to complete investigation and enforcement actions nearly 50% faster by streamlining its business processes and focusing on the highest priority investigations.

Bernadette's experience enforcing the AWA and HPA began prior to her joining APHIS as a trial attorney in USDA's Office of the General Counsel from 2002 to 2009. In over 6 years, she represented APHIS in numerous AWA and HPA administrative enforcement proceedings.

In 1999, Bernadette completed her Bachelor in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. She went on to earn her Juris Doctor from American University, Washington College of Law, in 2002.

I am confident that Bernadette's accomplished leadership and management experience, her commitment to results, her extensive knowledge and enforcement of both the AWA and HPA, and her passion for AC's mission will prove invaluable to APHIS' efforts to ensure more humane and healthy conditions for animals, while also working to end the cruel and inhumane practice of soring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kevin Shea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Shea
APHIS Administrator